

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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SECRET

Action:

Control: 11753

Rec'd: AUGUST 16, 1961

SO

2:44 PM

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Info

FROM: BONN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 342, AUGUST 16, DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 342; INFORMATION LONDON 71, MOSCOW 50, PARIS 87, BERLIN 103.

REFERENCE: DEPTEL 354.

ALTHOUGH TTD SUSPENSION MAY BE, AS DESCRIBED "PICAYUNE", IT SEEMS TO US THAT OUR ONLY POSSIBILITY RESPONDING SOV ZONE PROVOCATIONS LIES IN THE CONCERTED EFFECT WHICH MIGHT BE PRODUCED BY COMBINATION OF ACTIONS WHICH INDIVIDUALLY MAY NOT BE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. BRANDT'S VIEW, EXPRESSED TO LIGHTNER, THAT LIMITATION OF WESTERN REPRISALS TO SUSPENSION OF TTDs WOULD BE CLEARLY INADEQUATE TO IMPRESS EITHER EAST OR WEST HAS ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED BY RELIABLE OBSERVERS IN BONN. HOWEVER, THEY ACCEPT TTD BAN AS FOREGONE CONCLUSION AND THEY ARE THINKING ONLY IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL MEASURES. FAILURE TO SUSPEND ISSUANCE AND THEREBY TO PERMIT CONTINUANCE OF TRAVEL OF EAST GERMANS, MAJORITY OF WHOM NOW APPLYING FOR TTDs WE MUST ASSUME AS DOING SO WITH POLITICAL CLEARANCE OF SOV-ZONE, WOULD BE INCOMPREHENSIBLE IN FEDEP. IT SEEMS TO US TTD SLOW-DOWN WOULD BE MEANINGLESS. HALF-HEARTED MEASURE MIGHT BE WORSE THEN NONE AT ALL AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT ANY SORT OF BAN WHERE LOOP-HOLES EXIST HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY INEFFECTIVE. WE FEEL ALSO THAT IT IMPORTANT THAT FOUR POWERS TAKE ALL ACTIONS NATO ALLIES WILLING TO SUPPORT. FAILURE TO RESPOND TO GENERAL AGREEMENT IN NATO TO STRONG PROPOSAL MADE BY NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVE NAC (POLTO 32 RPTD DEPT POLTO 170, BERLIN POLTO 15, LONDON POLTO 32, MOSCOW POLTO 32), WHICH IS BORNE OUT BY STATEMENTS REPRESENTATIVES NATO EMBASSIES

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-2- 342, AUGUST 16, 6 PM, FROM: BONN

BONN, MIGHT WELL MAKE MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF GAINING THEIR SUPPORT FOR FURTHER MEASURES AS CRISIS DEVELOPS.

WE AGREE TRAVEL OF MILITARY DEPENDENTS TO EUROPE SHOULD NOT BE STOPPED, AND ALSO LIKE THE IDEA OF STRENGTHENING BERLIN GARRISON WITHOUT FANFARE BUT IN MANNER SO THAT ACTION WOULD BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, THUS REASSURING BERLIN AND WEST GERMAN MORALE. INCREASED CIRCULATION ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL COULD BE USEFUL AND EMBASSY HAS FELT FOR SOME TIME THAT VISITS OF HIGH-LEVEL US PERSONALITIES TO BERLIN HAS BEEN NEEDED.

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT FEDREP SHOULD TAKE ALL ACTION TO BLOCK PARTICIPATION IN LEIPZIG FAIR AND DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD MEET ANY GREAT RESISTANCE FROM WEST GERMAN BUSINESS CIRCLES. EVIDENCE OF THIS MAY BE FOUND IN HAMBURG'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY IN THE FAIR.

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